

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indication that claims 3-8, 10 and 11 are drawn to the allowable subject matter. By the present amendment claims 3, 7, 10, 12, 13 and 15 have been amended in the preamble to correspond with the language in the dependent claims, and such amendment presents no new issues. Claims 2-15 remain in the application and it is the position of the undersigned that all claims are in *prima facie* condition for allowance without further amendment.

The acknowledgment by the Examiner of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the priority document is also noted with appreciation.

By this amendment Figure 9 has been amended. Specifically, the legend "driving data" has been replaced with "driving signal" in order to eliminate a typographical error. This amendment is accompanied with the paper entitle "Annotated Sheets Showing Changes" with attached copies of drawing figures marked in red and "Replacement Sheets" which includes clean copies of corrected Figure 9 and Figures 1-3 are accompanied this amendment. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment and provide an indication of acceptance of the formal drawings acknowledgment.

The undersigned conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner on May 26, 2004, and this amendment makes the substance of the interview of record. First, the Examiner does not mention that a restriction requirement was made in the telephonic conversation of March 8, 2004. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the three groups of the claims: Group I including Claims 2 to 11 related to a inc jet recording device, Group II (claim 12) related to a leveling unit and Group III (Claims 13-14) related to a resolution changing unit. On March 15, 2004, the Applicant had selected Group I for the further prosecution. Since examination on the merit has been made on all the claims, it is assumed that the restriction requirement has been withdrawn.

Second, on March 17, 2004, the Examiner informed the Applicant over the

phone that claims 3-8 and 10-11 are in condition for allowance, but claim 2 reads on the new reference to Rezanka (U.S. Patent 5,751,302). Responding to this call, a Supplemental Amendment was filed on March 24, 2004. By this Supplemental Amendment claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 were amended and new claim 15 was added. By this Supplemental amendment the restriction requirement was eliminated because previously restricted independent claim 12 (a leveling unit) and claims 13-14 (a resolution unit) were made dependent on the newly added claim 15. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to make the reference to Rezanka of record.

Claims 2 to 8, 10 to 15 are currently active in the application. Claims 2, 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(c) as being anticipated by Wen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,046,822). This rejection is respectfully traversed based on the following discussion.

According to claim 15, recording data is converted to driving data based on nozzle profile data. Regarding this feature of claim 15, the Examiner pointed out that in Wen et al. the image calibrator 70 converts image file $I(x,y)$ to a waveform index number IN using the parameters A1, A2, W1, W2... stored in the lookup tables 60-63. However, the image calibrator 70 is for converting each color pixel value to a waveform index number IN using the aim density at that pixel for that color and printer performance curve 100 (Column 7, lines 16-10). That is, recording data is not converted based on the parameters stored in the lookup tables 60-63. Therefore, Examiner is not correct on this point.

Furthermore, according to claim 15, the driving data is a sequence of pulse data, and each pulse data is corresponding to one of the plurality of nozzles and includes a plurality of data sets. The Examiner pointed out this feature is not new with reference to column 3, lines 43-50, and column 4, lines 1-25 of Wen et al.

However, Wen et al. discloses in column 3, lines 43-50 that image file $I_p(x,y)$ is preferably calibrated by an image calibrator 70 which converts the color pixel values at each pixel to a plurality of waveform index number IN, and that LUT's 60-63 provide an electronic waveform, generally referred to as 80 for

driving print head 50. These statements are not related to the feature of claim 15 at all.

Wen et al. discloses in column 4, lines 1-25 that electronic waveform 80 is characterized by a set of predetermined parameters, which predetermined parameters may be time delays before start of pulses T_{Fij} and T_{Bij} ... It is assumed that the Examiner might have considered that the electronic waveform 80 of Wen et al. corresponds to the driving data of the claimed invention. However, the electronic waveform 80 is only for a specific nozzle, for the fourth nozzle for example, and the electronic waveform 80 does not include a plurality of pulse data each corresponding to one of the plurality of nozzles. Thus, the electronic waveform 80 does not correspond to the driving data of the claimed invention. The Examiner might have thought that the parameters W, W2, W3 and the like of Wen et al. corresponds to the driving data of the claimed invention. However, the Examiner is not correct in this case also. The parameters of Wen et al. corresponds to the nozzle profile data of the claimed invention, but not the driving data.

Furthermore, Wen et al. does not disclose that the electronic waveform 80 or the waveform index number IN is “a sequence of pulse data, and each pulse data is corresponding to one of the plurality of nozzles and includes a plurality of data sets” as it required in claim 15.

Moreover, values for print density, 1st pulse (A1, W1, S1-2), 2nd pulse (A2, W2, S2-3) and the like (Fig. 2 of Wen et al) are set not for each nozzle, but for each electronic waveform 80 (See column 4, lines 30-33). On the other hand, according to the present invention, as shown in Figure 7, coordinate values x, y, pulse data 1, pulse data 2, ... pulse data N are set for each nozzle (first column indicates nozzle number).

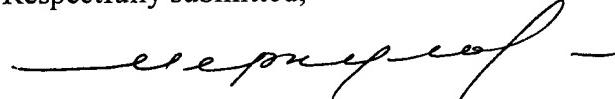
As discussed above, the reference to Wen et al. does not show or even suggest the above-explained specific features of the present invention. In view of foregoing it is respectfully requested that claims 2, 4 to 8, 10 to 15 be reconsidered and allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for

allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS

1/11

FIG.1 prior art

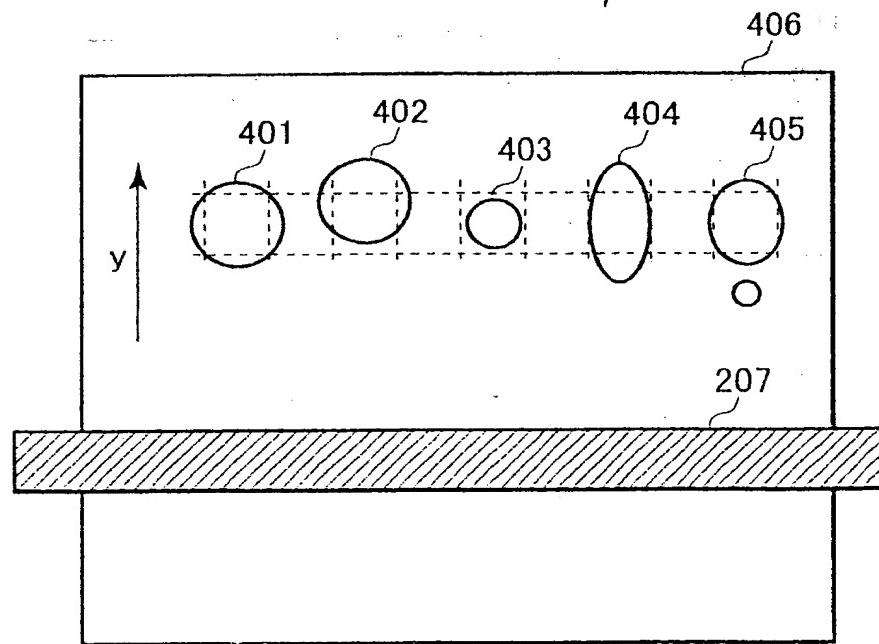
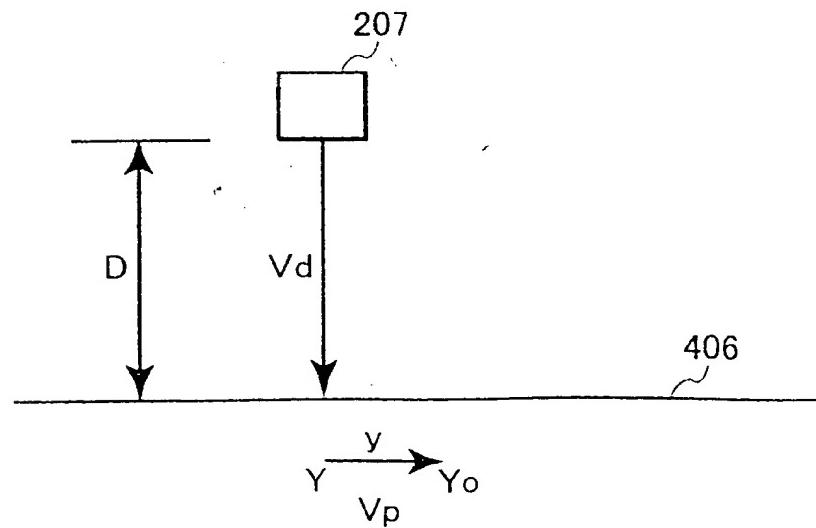


FIG.2 prior art





ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS

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FIG.3 prior art

GRAPH F1

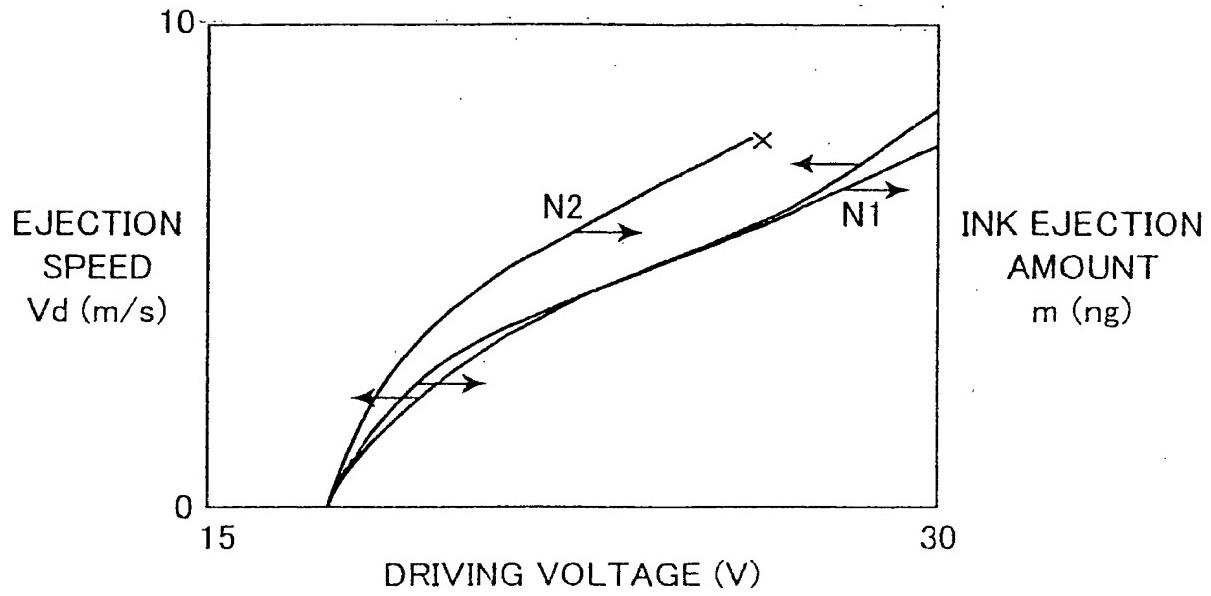
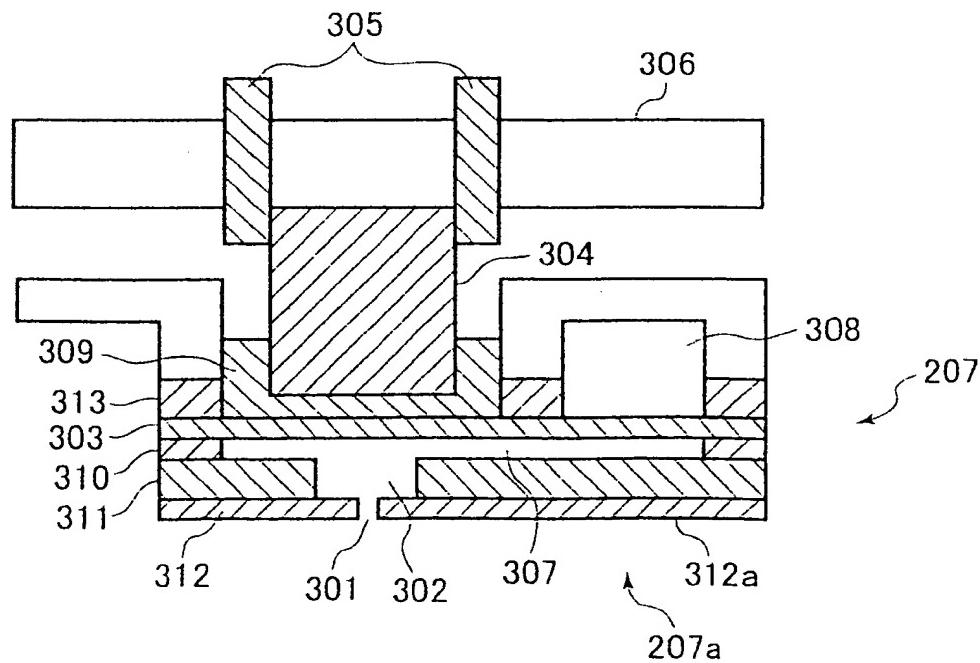


FIG.5



ANNOTATED MARKED-UP
DRAWINGS

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FIG.8

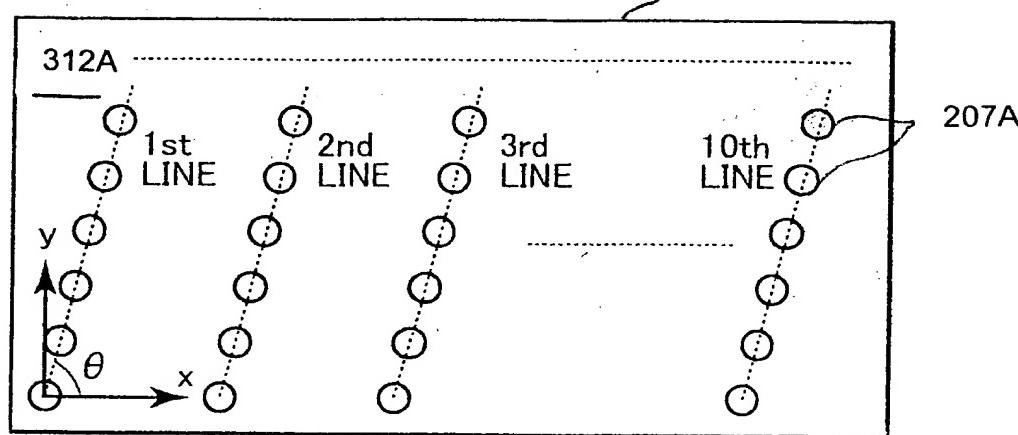


FIG.9

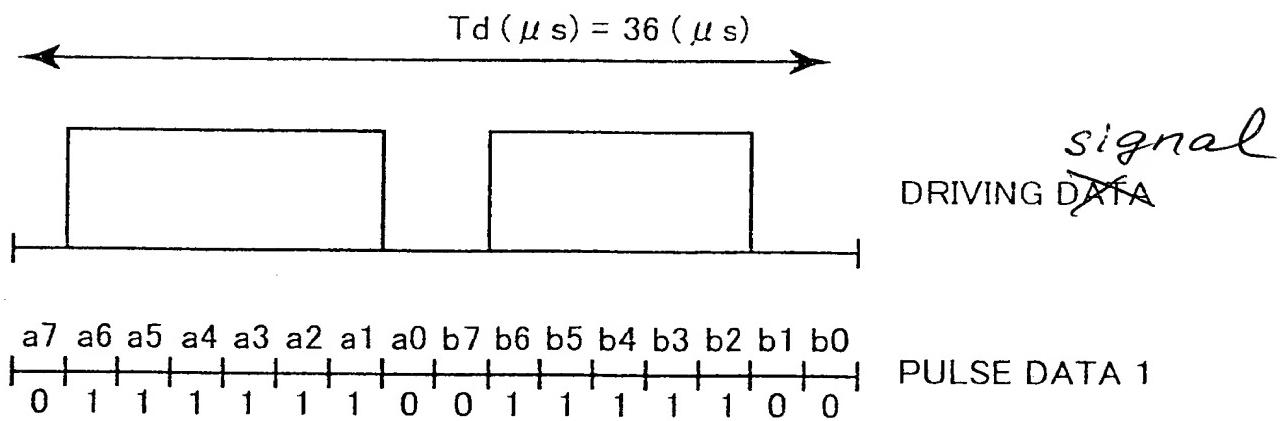


FIG.10

